Human Relations News from the MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY — LEO P. CARLIN, MAYOR

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Mayor Carlin Leads Forum On Housing and Rent Gouging

On November 5, 1959 Mayor Leo P. Carlin served as moderator of an open forum to discuss landlord-tenant relations in Newark. A brief account of this forum, its background and outcome follows.

The summary volume of the study, "Newark—A City in Transition", listed housing as one of the key problems facing the citizens of Newark. (This was reported in the July issue of Human Relations News.) Rent gouging was listed as the most prevalent housing problem faced by minority group families in Newark today. This is in the absence of State or local laws on rent control which expired on December 31, 1957.

This situation has become the concern of many different organizations, especially community councils and tenant groups. The Central Newark Community Council, a volunteer citizen grass-roots organization operating in the Central Ward of Newark, is one of these groups. Mr. Leonard Holman, newly-appointed member of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, is chairman of the Council.

On April 22, the Housing Committee of the Central Newark Community Council called a meeting to which Mayor Leo P. Carlin was invited. The purpose

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HUMAN RIGHTS DAY TO BE OBSERVED IN NEWARK, DECEMBER 12 AT THE ESSEX HOUSE

Human Rights in this country and abroad will be the subject of an intensive, critical study by representatives of New Jersey organizations at a State Conference on Human Rights, Saturday, December 12, at the Essex House, Newark. The Conference, which starts at 9:30 a.m., will mark the 11th Anniversary of the adoption by the United Nations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is sponsored by the N. J. Branch, American Association for the United Nations and the New Jersey Committee for Human Rights Day. Nathan A. Whitfield, Montclair attorney, is chairman of the Conference and Governor Meyner is honorary chairman.

In the morning session a panel of speakers will appraise the Declaration after 11 years, discuss the human rights needs in this country and recommend what needs to be done to implement the Declaration.

Roger N. Baldwin, chairman of the board of the International League for the Rights of Man, will speak on essential civil rights needs in this country. Dr. Ezekiel Gordon of Israel, Special Officer of the UN Division on Human Rights, will present an appraisal of the Human Rights Declaration on the international scene. Mr. Maurice Liu, Information Officer of the World Refugee UN Unit, will discuss "Human Rights and the Refugees." Clark Eichelberger, national director of the American Association for the United Nations will be moderator.

William Worthy, Jr., special correspondent for the Columbia Broadcasting System and the Afro-American Newspapers, who was the first American reporter to penetrate the "bamboo curtain" in 7 years and give a first-hand report from inside China, will be the luncheon speaker. As a foreign correspondent, Mr. Worthy covered the Korean war, the Asian-African Conference at Bandung, Indonesia, and other top news assignments overseas. Dr. Aaron Warner, president of the New Jersey AAUN will also be a luncheon speaker.

In a series of concurrent workshops, participants will consider what constructive steps might be taken to extend human rights on the world scene, on the national level and in our communities. Workshop chairmen will be Assemblyman Herbert H. Tate, former attache in the Pakistan Embassy, Mrs. Grace Freeman, former Assemblywoman who introduced the N. J. Law Against Discrimination, and Dr. John P. Milligan, assistant commissioner of education. Serving as resources in the workshops will be Daniel S. Anthony, director of

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The Mayor's Commission on Group Relations wishes you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Joyous Hanukah. May our New Year be dedicated to the advancement of human rights for all people in our City, State and Nation.

MAYOR CARLIN APPOINTS THREE NEW COMMISSIONERS

Mayor Leo P. Carlin recently appointed Jordan Baris, 42 Scheerer Avenue, Leonard Holman, 131 Rose Street and Lawrence McClosky, 188 Grafton Avenue to the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations to replace those Commissioners whose terms have expired. They were selected from a list of some 15 names which were recommended to the Mayor by various local agencies and institutions which cooperate with the Mayor's Commission. These three new appointees were given the oath of office on December 10, 1959 in a brief ceremony in the Mayor's office.

We have included below a brief summary of the interests and activities of our three new members to introduce them to our readers.

JORDAN BARIS, who, in 1952, established the firm bearing his name is now one of Newark's most active real estate brokers with offices located at 516 Clinton Avenue.

Jordan Baris

During World War II he served in the Philippines with the U. S. Navy. Subsequent to his military service he graduated from City College of New York.

He resides in Newark since 1950 and accepted appointment to the Mayor's Commission in hopes of being better able to serve his community.

Among his organization affiliations are the Board of Governors of the Newark Real Estate Board; B'nai B'rith Vailsburg Lodge in which he holds the office of Corresponding Secretary; and the Young Men's Division of the Jewish Community Council.

LEONARD HOLMAN is President of the Central Newark Community Council and Treasurer of the Associated Community Councils of Newark. He is a member of the Youth Division of the downtown branch of the YM - YWCA; Education Committee Chairman of the 18th Avenue and West Kinney Junior High School PTA's; and Past President of the 18th Avenue School PTA.

Leonard Holman

Mr. Holman operates a rug and upholstery cleaning business at 131 Rose Street.

LAWRENCE A. McCLOSKY is affiliated with several religious and fraternal organizations in the Newark community. Some of these affiliations and offices are: Past Master of Kane Lodge, No. 55, F. & A. M., member of the Board of Trustees of Forest Hill Presbyterian Church, member of the Society of Automotive Engineers and the Reserve Officers Association of the United States. Mr. McClosky is a Lt. Colonel in the Transportation Corps of the U. S. Army Reserves.

Mr. McClosky is employed by the N. J. Bell Telephone Company as a supervisor in the Division of Motor Vehicles.

Lawrence A. McClosky

STATE CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS

In this issue of Human Relations News we conclude the story on new civil rights laws in the area of private housing. A detailed discussion of these laws as enacted in Colorado and Oregon follows.

Colorado

The Colorado Fair Housing Act of 1959, the first state statute of its type enacted in the United States, was signed into law by Governor Stephen L. R. Nichols on April 10, 1959.

The Act covers all housing, public as well as private, with one exception: The owner of a one-family house who lives in the house with his family is not subject to the ban on discriminatory transfers.

The Act prohibits the owner of any housing accommodations from refusing to transfer, rent or lease them to any person because of race, creed, color, sex, national origin or ancestry; or to make any written or oral inquiry or record concerning such characteristics of a prospective buyer or tenant. It prohibits any owner from discriminating on any of those grounds in the terms, conditions or privileges pertaining to any housing or in the furnishing of facilities or services in connection therewith, and from printing or publishing notices or advertisements indicating any preference,

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Housing and Rent Forum

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of this meeting was to discuss what possible steps could be taken by the City Administration to meet some of the many social problems affecting the Central Ward, especially housing. Out of this meeting came the recommendation that a Conference involving tenants and landlords be called to discuss housing and related problems. Mayor Carlin agreed to carry this proposal and such a meeting was set for November 5, 1959.

Forum

Mayor Carlin served as moderator at a forum held at West Kinney Jr. High School on November 5 to discuss the serious problem of rent gouging. About 70 people attended this open, public meeting including representatives of tenant organizations, landlords and property owners associations, the Real Estate Board of Newark, private and City agencies and community councils.

This two-hour meeting opened with statements on the problem presented by persons representing the organizations mentioned above. After these statements, the meeting was opened to the audience for frank discussion on the problem and suggestions for eliminating these grievances. Certain specific charges were made concerning some buildings which led to proposals for future action. One such proposal was made by James Pawley, executive secretary of the Urban League of Essex County, who suggested that a landlord-tenant committee be established to follow up the recommendations proposed at the forum and to continue discussions on what can be done to meet the problem. Mayor Carlin at the conclusion of the forum appointed Daniel S. Anthony, director of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, as coordinator to set up such a committee.

Another outcome of this Forum was an unannounced inspection on November 6, led by Mayor Carlin with other City officials, of a 19-family apartment building which was cited as one containing numerous violations of the housing and sanitary Code. Included in the party were the Director of Health & Welfare, Police Director, Fire Chief, Health Officer, inspections division Chief and numerous inspectors.

Newark Students Plan Human Relations Activities After Summer Camp Experience

The October issue of Human Relations News included a brief description of the 1959 Brotherhood Youth Camp sponsored by the NCCJ in which fourteen Newark students and assistant director Walter Chambers participated. All of these young people agreed that this Camp experience gave them new insights and views in the field of human relations. They also agreed that this experience should be related and shared with the community and that some of their newly-gained skills should be applied to the community. Toward this end the Campers have been meeting since October in the office of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations and to formulate plans for the back-home application of their five days spent at the Brotherhood Youth Camp. A brief account of these plans follows.

At their bi-weekly meetings the Campers began to explore ideas and ways of relating their experiences to other students and organizations. It was agreed that one excellent tool for this job would be the Drama Workshop, a technique to which they were exposed in their Camp program. The Drama Workshop is a technique of presenting a brief skit or playlet on some subject of human relations followed by open discussion in which the audience has an opportunity to participate. It was felt that the Drama Workshop is a far more effective way of making a presentation and stimulating discussion than the increasingly archaic lecture and panel type programs.

While there are any number of prepared scripts for the drama, the students are considering writing their own. Every effort is being made to have the Workshop ready for presentation to schools and school organizations, community, civic or religious organizations or any interested group in early February, in time for Brotherhood Month activities. Assisting in this program are the two 1959 scholarship winners to the Encampment for Citizenship, Misses Joan Ellis and Judy Isacoff. Future issues of Human Relations News will include announcements on the availability and bookings of this Drama Workshop.

The 60 Campers from North Jersey maintain a close liaison with each other through a series of reunions co-ordinated by the local office of the NCCJ, Mr. Howard Devaney, director. Beginning in January, these meetings will be held monthly at the Hotel Essex House in Newark. The reunion agenda includes a program and business discussion as well as plenty of time for social activities. A most important part of the agenda is the exchange of information on what is being done to apply the Camp experience back home.

The business at hand is planning for the first New Jersey Brotherhood Youth Camp to be held in August, 1960 at Stokes State Forest, under the sponsorship of the New Jersey Region of the NCCJ. The immediate plans are to invite participants not only from New Jersey but also from other states along the eastern seaboard, North and South. The Commission Staff is cooperating with Mr. Devaney and the Camp Steering Committee, comprised of last year's Campers, in mapping the plans for this New Jersey first.

The Mayor's Commission on Group Relations is pleased to be a part of this excellent program which is certainly one of the outstanding developments in the field of human relations. When one meets these young adults, hears their discussions and witnesses their behavior, it will be realized that some progress has been made toward perfecting the democracy in which we all believe and for which we must continue to work.

1960 BROTHERHOOD WEEK
FEBRUARY 21-28

The Mayor's Commission on Group Relations wishes to remind you that Brotherhood Week, the annual season of programming for human relations is just around the corner. The Commission will offer its program services to any organization or institution that plans to sponsor a program. Contact the Commission at your earliest convenience. Make your plans now.

State Civil Rights Laws

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limitation or discrimination based on race, creed, sex, national origin or ancestry.

In addition, the Act prohibits banks and financial institutions from making inquiries concerning the race, creed, color, sex, national origin or ancestry of persons seeking financial assistance in connection with any housing or discriminating in the terms, conditions or privileges relating to such financial assistance.

Limited exception is provided for religious or denominational institutions and organizations which operate or control housing accommodations. Another exception permits leasing of premises only to members of one sex. This covers, for example, YMCA and YWCA homes.

Enforcement of the Act is entrusted to the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Commission, which administers the state laws against discrimination in employment and in places of public accommodation.

Oregon

Oregon's prohibition of discrimination in the sale or occupancy of private housing is contained in two bills signed by Governor Mark O. Hatfield on May 25, 1959. They are Senate Bills 249 and 250.

refusing to sell or rent solely because of the race, color, religion or national origin of the would-be purchaser or lessee, from making any other distinctions or restrictions "in the price, terms, conditions or privileges" in connection with the sale, lease or occupancy of such property, or from publishing or displaying any advertisement indicating a preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion or national origin. Real estate brokers and salesmen are expressly forbidden to accept "a listing of real property . . . with an understanding that a purchaser [or lessee] may be discriminated against . . . solely because of race, color, religion or national origin." The sale or rental of a house by the owner, who is not in the business of selling or renting houses, would not be covered by the new law, unless the owner retains a real estate broker, agent or salesman to help in finding the buyer or lessee or in negotiating the sale or lease.

The former amends the Oregon Law Against Discrimination by prohibiting all persons "engaged in the business of selling or renting real property" from

The second bill, Senate Bill 250, adds as a ground for the revocation or suspension of the license of real estate brokers or salesmen violation of the Oregon Law Against Discrimination, as amended by Senate Bill 249.

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Human Rights Day

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the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, Newark; Sydney Kellner, area director of the American Jewish Committee; James A. Pawley, executive director of the Urban League of Essex County and Arnold Harris, director of the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Community Council.

Representatives of industry, labor, religious bodies, educational institutions, youth and other fields are expected to participate.

The public is invited to attend.

Selected Reading

Brameld, Theodore. **Remaking of a Culture: Life and Education in Puerto Rico.** 1959. Harpe

"A study of the educational challenge creat by a changing society, with finds of significance for educational systems in all transitional cultures."

Carter, III, Hodding. **South Strikes Back.** 1959. Doubleday.

"Young Southerner traces the birth and growth of Citizens Council, organization designed to prevent immediate integration. Discusses Little Rock dispute."

Gordon, Albert I. **Jew in Suburbia.** 1959. Beacon.

"Sociological analyses of Jewish life in the suburbs based on observation of nearly 100 suburban communities by Rabbi of Temple Emanuel of Newton, Mass."

The Commission's camera introduces the program principals who participated in the 14th Anniversary Celebration of the United Nations which was held at the Hotel Essex House, Newark, October 22, 1959. Left to right: Mariano J. Rinaldi, Business Administrator, City of Newark; Dr. Henry H. Kessler, chairman of the Newark Celebration Committee; Dr. Howard A. Rusk, principal speaker. Standing: Charles A. Anderson, alternate delegate to the General Assembly from the U. S. Mission to the U. N. and Mrs. Benjamin Arons, co-chairman of the Newark Committee.

MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS

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